

In the Claims:

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings of the claims:

- 1.-28. (canceled)
29. (currently amended) A process for obtaining a highly-purified alginate composition, the process comprising the steps of:
 - a) treating raw algae source material with a complex forming agent, thereby creating a liquid comprising dissolved alginate and solid matter, wherein said algae source material is selected from the group consisting of fresh algae and dried algae, further wherein said source material has not been previously processed;
 - b) filtering said liquid to produce a filtrate, said filtrate being a solution comprising dissolved alginate;
 - c) precipitating said alginate out of said solution;
 - d) collecting and dewatering the precipitated alginate; and
 - e) repeating the steps a) to d) at least once.
30. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 29, wherein ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid is used as [a] the complex forming agent for the extraction said treating.
31. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the extracting said treating takes place in a soda Na_2CO_3 solution.
32. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 30, wherein activated carbon is added for the extraction said treating of the solution.

33. (original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein, before the filtering of the solution, sedimentation of cell constituents and particles from the solution is carried out with a porous binding agent.
34. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 33, wherein the sedimentation takes place with a porous granulate ~~on the basis of~~ formed from diatomaceous earth, or from cellulose, or recycling materials from regenerated raw materials.
35. (currently amended) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the filtering takes place with deep filters having a pore size of approximately 15 μm , and the solution is subjected to more than one filtration, and the pore size of the filters used decreases for successive filtrations.
36. (original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the precipitation of the alginate takes place in a solution containing ethanol.
37. (original) A process according to Claim 36, wherein the ethanol content is selected in the range from about 10% to about 50%.
38. (original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the collecting of the precipitated alginate is effected by foaming out of the solution, by decanting from the solution, or by stirring the solution with a stirring and collecting device.
39. (original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the dewatering of the alginate takes place at room temperature.
40. (original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the algae material used in the process is fresh algae material occurring in nature, fresh algae material cultivated in a bioreactor or tank system, or algae material from fusioned or regenerated algae cells.

41. (original) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the algae material used in the process is specific organ or tissue parts of algae or algae parts, or specific organ or tissue parts of algae or algae parts from specific stages of the development cycle of algae.
42. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 29, wherein the algae material used in the process is an alginate-producing fresh-water or salt-water algae.

43.-51. (cancelled)

52. (previously presented) An alginate composition, manufactured by the process according to Claim 29, comprising a mixed polymer of mannuronic acid and guluronic acid, in which the ratio of mannuronic acid to guluronic acid in the mixed polymer is in the range from about 0.1 to about 9, and the mean molecular weight of the mixed polymer is greater than about 250 kD.

53.-55. (cancelled)

56. (previously presented) A process according to Claim 29 wherein the algae material used in the process is brown algae.